

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 11, 2004

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 21

Introduced by Senators Dunn, Cedillo, Escutia, and Romero
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Nunez)

August 19, 2003

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21—Relative to persons of Mexican descent.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 21, as amended, Dunn. Persons of Mexican descent.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to establish a factfinding commission to determine whether the federal government committed a wrong against those American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Mexican descent who were deported or coerced to emigrate during the 1930s and to recommend appropriate remedies.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In the early 1930s, the United States government,
2 in close cooperation with states, cities, counties, and certain
3 private sector entities, undertook an aggressive program to
4 forcibly remove persons of Mexican descent from the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, authorities
7 conducted massive raids on Mexican communities, resulting in
8 clandestine deportation sweeps; and

9 WHEREAS, These raids also had the effect of coercing
10 thousands of people to leave the country “voluntarily” in the face
11 of threats and acts of violence; and



1 WHEREAS, These raids indiscriminately targeted persons of
2 Mexican descent, with authorities characterizing these persons as
3 “illegal aliens” regardless of whether they were *American* citizens
4 or permanent legal residents; and

5 WHEREAS, Local authorities, with the knowledge and
6 assistance of the federal government, instituted programs to
7 facilitate the wrongful deportation of persons of Mexican descent
8 and secured transportation arrangements with railroads, ships, and
9 airlines to effectuate the wholesale removal of ~~tens of thousands~~
10 of persons of Mexican descent to the ~~Mexican border~~; *interior of*
11 *Mexico*; and

12 WHEREAS, As a result of these wrongful deportation
13 activities, families were forced to abandon, or were defrauded out
14 of, personal and real property, which often was subsequently
15 disposed of by local authorities as “payment” for the
16 transportation expenses incident to their removal to Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, As a further result of these wrongful deportation
18 activities, United States citizens were separated from their
19 families, friends, and country and were deprived of their
20 livelihood, educational opportunities, adequate medical care, and
21 the right to participate in the political process as guaranteed to all
22 *American* citizens, thereby resulting in the tragic denial of due
23 process and equal protection of the laws; and

24 WHEREAS, It is estimated that approximately 2 million people
25 were forcibly relocated to Mexico, including approximately 1.2
26 million children who had been born in the United States and were
27 legally *American* citizens; and

28 WHEREAS, No *formal* inquiry into this matter has been
29 conducted; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved, by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
31 *jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully
32 requests the Congress of the United States to establish a factfinding
33 commission to determine whether the federal government
34 committed a wrong against those *American* citizens and
35 permanent resident aliens of Mexican descent who were deported
36 or coerced to emigrate during the 1930s and to recommend
37 appropriate remedies; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
39 this resolution to the Governor, the President and Vice President
40 of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,

- 1 the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and
- 2 Representative from California in the United States Congress.

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